GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3382
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2000
IMPORT OF COAL BY SEBS
VINOD KHANNA

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Electricity Boards (SEBs) are incurring valuable forex for import of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are not allowing these Boards to use `captive` coal mines which make these Boards to import coal;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to allow these Boards to use `captive` coal mines?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (e): Some SEBs are importing higher graded coal for blendingwith low graded indigenous coal which is both operationally and commercially beneficial to the SEBs/Power Utilities.However, import of coal by power utilities is presently meagre and is less than 1% of total coal consumption by power sector. Year-wise coal import by power utilities during last two years and the current year is given below:

(Figures in Million Tonnes)

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001 (upto Oct. 2000)
Import of coal	0.606	1.208	1.122

Import of coal is under OGL and power utilities are importingcoal after analysing the commercial viability of the use of blended coal with imported coal vis-Ã -vis indigenous coal for some of their power stations. As such, there is no relation between import of coal and non allowing of captive mines. Government has already allowed the power utilities to develop and use the captive coal mines for their own use. However, such captive mines will take their own time for development and actual production. One captive mine in West Bengal is already under operation.